## **GERMANY FACES** RAILWAY CRISIS

Workers May Attempt a Coup d'Etat to Seize the Ministry.

ONE STRIKE HAS BEGUN

Radicals Are Divided, but Communist Element Is Seeking a Dictatorship.

By a Staff Correspondent of Tuz Sux. Copyright, 1920, all rights reserved. BESLIN, Jan. 7.—While a crisis in the conflict between the Prusslan railway ministry and the shop and depot employees has been averted, the almost general demands by railroad men all over the republic for higher wages, with threats of strikes, has precipitated another serious situation. The radical ele-ments among the men are agitating for g revolutionary council of government. The radical unions, whose headquarters are in Frankfort, are the chief agitators in the present difficulty.

The wage negotiations begun in Ber

lin will require a long time before they can be ended, yet the workers are de-manding the immediate grant of an increase of 90 pfennigs an hour. Demon-strations have occurred in Magdeburg Cologne, Elberfeld, where a strike has started. Halle and Berlin; there are re-ports of unrest in Erfurt and also that it is spreading in Saxony. The Government fears that the radicals by a coup d'etat might seize the rail min istry and precipitate a new revolution The Government has promised railroad workers of more than twenty-four years' service 3 marks 59 pfennigs an hour and has granted a temporary in-crease of 50 pfennigs (half a mark) in the Berlin district and slightly less in

Delay Stimulates Radicals.

hold on the railway shopmen and sta-tion and warehouse employees. The The Cummins bill, passed by the hold on the railway snopmen and the tion and warehouse employees. The The Cummins bill, passed by the Frankfort committee even planned last Senate, fixed the amount at \$500,000,-

March a coup d'état to capture the rail-road ministry.

The long délay coupled with the in-creased cost of living has caused a great measure of dissatisfaction, which has stimulated attempts by the radicals to establish their own shop committees and obtain their recognition by the ministry. The government also has tried to set up committees for speeding



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work, in which labor supposedly was SEEK COMPROMISE cals held aloof.

cais held aloof.

The radicals are divided among themselves, those under communist leadership demanding shop committee control with the pronounced aim of bringing on a revolutionary dictatorship by the proletariat as quickly as possible, and those under the leadership of Independent Societies the property of the prop dent Socialists demanding the support by labor of the regular shop steward organization soon to be established by law, awaiting the evolution of this into a proletarian dictatorship.

Sabotage Has Been Common.

However, both wings are impatient over the dilatory tactics of the ministry so that a blunder might involve Ger-man industry in a catastrophe as well as starve the cities. It is a common report that there has been sabotage among the railway shopmen ever since the revolution; certainly the German railway system has become pitifully in-It is generally believed in government circles that the radicals are proceeding on a definite programment. competent, although this may be due in on the wage compromise offered by the part to inability to keep up repairs. Government. Present indications are precipitate another revolution, first paralyzing communications and then gime. This would be more likely to succeed were it not that the Independent Socialists are committed to a policy of awaiting the introduction of the shop steward system and proceeding systemsteward system and proceeding system-atically to build it up until it is edu-cated enough to take over the manage-ment of industry. We shall be torn to pieces when we reformend acceptance, but we are prepared to face criticism and give all the information we can."

ment of industry The Boersen Zeitung says the calling of a strike at Elberfeld indicates that the railroad men there have gotten out of control of the union leaders.

## \$300,000,000 FUND TO TIDE OVER LINES

Senate and House Conferees Agree on Loan Fund for Carriers.

This attempt of the Government to Washington, Jan. 7.—Senate and House conferees, working to-day on had the desired effect because the the Esch and Cummins railroad bills, the desired effect because the workers are ignorant of the nature of the national contract and believe it already has been accepted, but their 90 fearing demand has modified a situation which dates back to the revolution. At hat time the radicals obtained a strong diately following their return to pri-

> 000, and the Esch measure, passed by the House, made it \$250,000,000. At two sessions to-day the conferees

covered much ground and are about ready now to take up the real big ques-tions, over which a sharp fight is expected. These are: The guarantee re-turn to the goads, rate making and the labor section, with its anti-strike pro-

"I think we will soon see daylight ahead," said Senator Cummins (Iowa)

S. J. Lowell, master of the National Grange, told Senator Cummins of the recent referendum on the subject of retaining the anti-strike clauses of the "We have taken a referendum of the

thirty-three State masters, and so far as replies have been received they are unanimously in favor of retaining the anti-strike provisions," he said. "The Cummins bill protects the public's right to say to any organization of individ-uals created or permitted under the laws that such organizations shall not deliberately create conditions so one class has a strangle hold on the rest of the public and then proceeds to use that strangle hold under the guise of individual liberty.

The Grange and the farmers have no more sympathy for the use of such tactics by capital than they have for their use by labor. We demand a control of the packer strangle hold on food products just as strong and with just as many teeth in it as we do of the control of the strike strangle hold on rail-roads."

# IN BRITISH RAIL WAR

Workers'- Leaders Striving Hard for Acceptance of Government's Offer.

Special Cable Desputch to THE SUN Copyright, 1820, all rights reserved.

London, Jan. 7.—The election of W.

Labrahams, president of the Sheffield
Trades Council, as chairman of the railwaymen's conference, in which sixty delegates represent 500,000 workers, in-dicates the presence of a majority of moderates who will leave no stone un turned to bring about a settlement based

ment circles that the radicals are pro-ceeding on a definite programme to sates for supremacy. using the consequent privation as proof of the incompetence of the present re-gime. This would be more likely to the rank and size of the present rewaymen with their leaders in the past. One of the latter said: "I expect that, bguratively, we shall be torn to pieces

> The view of J. H. Thomas, general secretary of the rallwaymen's union is that a strike is the last, not the first resort. The greater part of the session to-day was taken up by an explanathat a decision will be reached before Thursday evening. It is probable that the decision will be in favor of reopening negotiations with the Government rather than a reference of the subject to

ballots, which they consider allow their opponents time to prepare for strike breaking.

Ballots of the moulders show a slight Hallots of the moulders show a slight majority in favor of resuming; a decision may be reached to-morrow. The miners are pressing their federation to permit a new wage demand, asserting that they are entitled to share in the increased profits of the coal industry. This matter will come up in the conference to Thursday. The miners executives will oppose the demand on the ground that it would weaken pubthe ground that it would weaken public support in the campaign for the nationalization of the mines.

STAMFORD HONORS PREMIER'S DAUGHTER

Freedom of City Given Mme. Clemenceau-Jaquemaire.

The freedom of the city of Stam-ford, Conn., was given yesterday Mmc. Madeleine Clemenceau-Jaquemaire. daughter of the Premier of France, with exercises at which Mayor John J. Treat French in a private school at Stamford

visit to Stamford caused recollections that were very dear. She thanked Mayor Treat, as the representative of the city, for the honor conferred upon her. She went to Stamford to give a lecture under the auspices of an educa-fional organization.

Mmc. Clemenceau - Jaquemaire was taken to the site of the Catherine Alken School, where her father taught. In her party was Marcel Knecht, French High Commissioner to the United States

De Marcilly Goes to Berlin.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. PARIS, Jan. 7:-M. de Marcilly, forerly consul general and recently prothe branches, and a ballot by the men moted to be minister plenipotentiary, is not regarded as likely. The railwaymen as a rule are opposed to taking France in Berlin.



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	· V			Floor.

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Main Floor.

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Main Floor.

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